



Office of the Regional Clerk
Corporate Services Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council
From: Christopher Raynor, Regional Clerk
Date: January 24, 2019
Re: Council Code of Conduct

As directed by Council, the Region's Integrity Commissioner has developed a draft Council Code of Conduct

The *Municipal Act* requires all municipalities to establish a Council Code of Conduct by March 1, 2019. On [April 19, 2018](#), Council directed the future Integrity Commissioner to work with them to develop the required Council Code of Conduct.

As noted in a memorandum dated [December 12, 2018](#), Principles Integrity was appointed as the Region's first Integrity Commissioner. Principles Integrity developed the draft Council Code of Conduct shown in Attachment 1 and will be available to answer questions at Council's meeting on January 31, 2019.

The Code includes the elements required by the *Municipal Act*

Regulation 55/18 to the *Municipal Act* requires that Council Codes of Conduct must include the following sections:

1. Gifts, benefits and hospitality
2. Respectful conduct, including conduct toward officers and employees of the municipality or the local board, as the case may be
3. Confidential information
4. Use of property of the municipality or of the local board, as the case may be

This draft Code includes provisions on each of these as well as several additional provisions.

The Code is based on the Integrity Commissioner’s model code, updated to reflect Regional Council’s upper tier function

The Code reflects the Integrity Commissioner’s own experience, the findings of other Integrity Commissioners and court judgements. It includes specific behavioural and ethical expectations which are supplemented by commentary designed to provide Council Members with greater certainty on these expectations. The Code would apply to all Council Members, including the Regional Chair.

The Integrity Commissioner and staff recommend that Council adopt the Code

The Integrity Commissioner recommends the model code, in substantially the form presented here, to each of the municipalities in which it is requested to develop a code of conduct. The Integrity Commissioner believes this Code best “enhances the citizen’s perception that their Council meet established ethical standards and where they do not, there exists a review mechanism that serves the public interest.”

Staff reviewed the model code and updated a number of sections to better reflect the upper tier nature of Regional Council as well as its specific operations.

Christopher Raynor
Regional Clerk

Attachments (1)

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